



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WALLACE J. PUCHALSKI MUNICIPAL BUILDING
212 MAIN STREET, NORTHAMPTON
Northampton, MA
September 1, 2016**

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by City Council President William H. Dwight. At 7:26 pm on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight At-Large Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell
Ward 1 Councilor Maureen T. Carney Ward 2 Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Ward 3 Councilor (Vacant) Ward 5 Councilor David A. Murphy
Ward 6 Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge Ward 7 Councilor Alisa F. Klein.

The following City Councilor(s) was (were) absent: Ward 4 Councilor Gina-Louise Sclarra

Councilor Klein motioned to suspend City Council Rules to allow the Council to change the order of business; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sclarra), 1 Vacant.

Public Hearing**Public Hearing:**

Councilor Dwight announced the following: The Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 6, 2016, at 7:05 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA to discuss the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property within the City of Northampton for FY 2017 in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 56 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**

None

Communications and Proclamations From the Mayor**Communications and Proclamations From the Mayor:**

Mayor Narkewicz noted that at the August 18, 2016 City Council meeting the City Council confirmed the new Senior Services Director, Linda Desmond. Director Desmond was unable to attend the last City Council meeting and the Mayor invited Director Desmond to tonight's meeting to meet the Council.

**Senior Services
Director Linda
Desmond
Introduced**

Councilor Dwight recalled when Director Desmond served on the City Council as Ward 5 City Councilor. At the time he was sad to see her go and is glad that she has returned.

Director Desmond apologized for not being able to attend the last meeting; she feels privileged to be back working in her field of gerontology. Director Desmond asked the Councilors to let her know if any of their constituents have a particular need. She is happy to report that on October 31st the Senior Center will have its first van on the road. Presently she is working on a survey to assess needs of the community and the feedback is interesting. She invites feedback from the Councilors. She also noted that on October 11, 12, and 13th the Senior Center will be having an Autumn Festival where the doors will be open from 8am until 8pm. New activities will be introduced and tours will be offered.

Councilor Dwight is excited about the prospect of making people aware of the services of the Senior Center.

Councilor LaBarge stated Director Desmond promised to go to seniors who are housebound and wanted an update about the plan. Director Desmond has met with Highland Valley and is working on identifying the needs through the needs assessment survey. That program will need "partners" and Director Desmond is working to identify people who need that extra support. She doesn't want to re-invent something that is already happening and wants to make sure that any changes made are meaningful and necessary. This may take time, but Director Desmond plans on changes based on information she learns over the next two months. They will work to support existing programs, as needed. Director Desmond has only been on the job for six weeks, and she feels with time she will be able to make changes that will benefit the community. She notes that the staff and volunteers are wonderful and she looks forward to working with everyone at the Center.

Councilor LaBarge asked about the two vans that will be added at the Senior Center; Director Desmond noted that the first will be delivered on Oct. 31st and the second is being ordered and fitted. The Center will hire van drivers.

Councilor Klein welcomed Director Desmond. She offered Director Desmond to share events and other news with City Councilors; they all have "List Serves" and can share news with a host of residents.

Director Desmond commented that she has been working a lot all over the world and she notes that there is no

City like Northampton. Northampton is very unique. The Center offers writing workshops and so far 10 participants have been published.

Councilor Murphy thanked Director Desmond for serving.

**Mayor announces
Three County Fair
Kick-off**

Mayor Narkevicz reminded the Council that the Three County Fair starts on Friday, September 2nd; there will be a special focus on Veterans on Friday evening. A special concert is planned. The Mayor thanked the Three County Fair Board of Directors for working with the local Veterans Agent to make this happen.

Resolutions

Resolutions:

**16.147 A Resolution
Opposing Lifting the
Cap on
Commonwealth
Charter Schools -
1st Reading**

16.147 A Resolution Opposing Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools - 1st Reading

Councilor Bidwell commented that the Resolution speaks for itself. He notes that the system to fund charter schools is badly flawed; he feels it needs a fundamental overhaul before adding more charter schools to the system. He is suggesting that the Northampton City Council join a lot of other City Councils and School Committees around the state in going on record urging a "no" vote on Question 2 when it comes up on the November ballot. If passed, twelve new charter schools would be allowed to be added to the system per year. Councilor Bidwell is clear that the resolution is not about is any expression of disapproval of families who elect to go to charter schools. He respects parents who make the decision to send their own children to charter schools in the best interest of the child. He notes that in June of this year the City Council voted on a budget where \$2.2 million of Northampton taxpayer money went out to six charter schools in surrounding communities. This represents about 8% of Northampton's school budget. The irony of this is that charter school parents have remarked that they chose charter schools for the arts, music and language programs that are available in the charter schools. If the \$2.2 million weren't leaving the Northampton school system, the schools could offer instrumental music and foreign language instruction in the elementary schools; late start to the high school could be funded because the transportation costs could be paid for; athletic fees in schools could be eliminated; and two more pre-schools could be added.

Councilor LaBarge attended a forum on June 22 at JFK Middle School. She found the forum to be educational on reasons why not to vote to lift the cap on chart schools. Saving schools is a grass roots coalition. Parents, students and community groups that support quality public schools for all and oppose a ballot question that would lift the cap on privately funded commonwealth schools. She knows several residents who are willing to hold signs on election day to help educate the public on how serious this vote is. She states that lifting the cap will drain billions of dollars from public schools. She notes that charter schools are not accountable to local communities. Charter schools are divisive and create a two tiered system described by NAACP as separate and unequal. They under serve special needs children and children whose primary language is not English. Just this year alone charter schools will divert \$400 million from public schools. This money is needed in our district. Public Schools need smaller class sizes. Charter schools are being run by for-profit corporations. Councilor LaBarge encourages voters to vote "no" on November 8th on Question #2.

Councilor Murphy will not support the resolution. For him it is a question of equity. He notes that the "one percent" can send their children anywhere they want, even the more expensive places. Over 50% of city tax dollars go to education. For people who go to private school, the city gets to keep the tax dollars to support local education. In Massachusetts there are about 40,000 who attend charter schools. That is slightly over 4% of the population of children; it hardly seems that this will bankrupt the system. Also, there is a list of about 32,000 on a waiting list to get into charter schools. In total this represents 7% of the children in Massachusetts who parents have expressed an interest in sending them to charter schools. Councilor Murphy feels that this is hardly a number that is going to bankrupt the education system. He notes that between the children who opt out of Northampton Schools and the children who school-choice into Northampton, the difference is about 70 children. He believes that this amounts to less than \$1million going out of Northampton to support charter schools. If you are not a wealthy person, there is no school choice for your children. This year the State Senate passed a bill that allowed for an increase in charter schools with a \$1.4 billion increase for public schools. The Massachusetts House of Representative refused to hear the issue. This is a question that is important to less than 10% of the parents but there is nothing more important to a parent than the education of children. If your kids are in school right now, now is the time to take action. Councilor Murphy does not see it as that threatening a thing. He respects Councilor Bidwell's position on the issue, but Councilor Murphy feels that the state is not going to fix the funding mechanism if they don't need to. If the resolution passes, and the number of charter schools increases, they will fix the funding mechanism. If this doesn't pass, they will let a very inequitable funding mechanism continue forever. Councilor Murphy proposed changing the foundation amounts of outgoing versus incoming dollars; he has no desire to lose money when a parent decides they want to opt into a charter school. The state formula is the reason why towns suffer; Councilor Murphy feels that the legislature should fix that. Councilor Murphy encourages voters to look into the issue further, learn the facts, and understand that this should not be threatening to the schools in Massachusetts. Rather, it should be a mechanism by which parents who don't have the means to select private school but want something else for their children. Many of the charter schools were targeted for areas where schools are in failure. Councilor Murphy was surprised to see this on the agenda with so little time to talk about the issue and with so little research up front about it. He cannot support the resolution without more facts and understanding about the concerns. In service-vendor communities, residents don't have a choice about fire, police, water, etc. The school system is the only area in which parents will have a choice about where to send their kids. Councilor Murphy encourages the Council to not just blindly vote a resolution to take that away from parents who don't have the means but want to offer another choice to their children. He would rather see another approach to put pressure on the House of Representatives to deal with the inequity about the distribution of funds for the children that leave and a more equitable approach to how schools are funded. This

16.147 Continued

may seem like a quick solution, but it is not the right solution.

On rebuttal, Councilor Bidwell explained that the resolution is not intended to suggest that charter schools should go away or that there is something wrong with providing greater educational opportunities to parents. It is about the funding mechanism that is so inequitable. There would be much greater equity if the schools were funded directly by the state as opposed to coming out of school budgets. There are a number of states that fund them directly as a state appropriation. If citizens and legislature think charter schools are so important, then that would be a more appropriate funding mechanism. Councilor Bidwell doesn't think that this is a possibility by continuing to expand the number of charter schools and continuing to see a drain on public schools as this happens. Councilor Bidwell acknowledges that this is not something that is bankrupting schools but when you remove 8% of any budget, especially a school budget, it is the 8% that allows you to do wonderfully creative things that offer choices. While the public schools are not being bankrupted, they are being handicapped. Councilor Bidwell feels that a signal should be sent to say rather than let that situation continue, voters are urged to hit the "pause" button. He recognizes that it will not be simple to go back to the legislature to come up with a better solution, however, he doesn't feel that this can happen by letting the system continue.

Councilor Murphy noted that the Governor and state Senate came up with a compromise that would allow the expansion of charters with \$1.4 billion to public schools; the House of Representatives refused to hear the bill. The House will not deal with this issue if Question #2 fails unless they are compelled to do so. That is the way it is in Massachusetts.

Mayor Narkewicz indicated that the Governor did not support the Senate bill. The Senate Bill called for massive increases to Chapter 70. Councilor Murphy was happy to accept that correction.

Councilor Murphy recognizes that this is a complex question. Given the amount of time that the City Council has to deal with the issue, he feels that the matter will not get the attention that it is due. If question 2 passes, the House of Representatives will need to debate the issue with the Senate.

Councilor O'Donnell appreciates how Councilor Bidwell frames the issue by saying this is not about attacking personal choices of families. He acknowledges that every Councilor represents people who choose to send their children to charter schools. It is not about impugning the original stated intention of having charter schools. There is a distinction between the theory of the original intention of charter schools and today's reality. A certain disproportion of the population that is served by charter schools verses that which public schools serve. Special needs children are one of the biggest examples. There are also disparities based on income that charter schools do not address as advertised. That is a reality that gives Councilor O'Donnell additional incentive to hit the pause button. Knowing the facts is important, and he believes that the facts surrounding the original mission of charter schools is different than the facts are today. Councilor O'Donnell can't understand why the cap should be lifted without fixing some of the problems, like the funding mechanism. He is not clear how having an unlimited number of charter schools will help to fix the funding mechanism for charter schools. He also stated that conceptually, concerning the issue of equity, doesn't every child deserve a better education; and is that the system that we have today?

Councilor Carney noted that there is agreement that the funding mechanism is flawed. The concern is whether or not to lift the cap. Councilor Carney is not sure that lifting the cap will force the legislature to deal with the funding mechanism. She does think it is time to take a time out and to prevent exacerbating a situation that is pretty bad. She will support the resolution.

Councilor Dwight noted that creating community pressure may cause the legislature to fix the funding mechanism, and he doesn't feel that lifting the cap will have the same result. The resolution is resorting people to community pressure and puts the legislature on notice that the problem does exist and has existed since charters were established. Charters were intended to create equity in education; however, the facts on the ground don't bear out that equity. If that were the case, underserved communities, like Holyoke, would be festooned with charter schools. The issue concerning charter schools has to do with taxation without representation. Voters do not get a say in how the \$2 million is spent. Lots of communities have a school committee because that level of representation has to be reflected. That does not occur in charter schools. Money is sent out from communities and it is the charter schools that get to dictate how those funds are spent. When you talk out social systems, like emergency services, there is oversight and contact at every level. Councilor Dwight noted that the funding mechanism concerning school funding has been broken for a long time and the conversations about the issues are not new. There seems to be a common ground that advocating for change is falling on deaf ears. It is important to advocate for all the students in the community, fairly and justly with full representation. Oversized classes, books from the 1970s, bussing concerns; these are all subjects that Councilor Dwight supports advocating for.

Councilor Murphy noted that it would be painfully naive to believe that if the ballot question fails, the House of Representatives is going to deal with this. They chose not to deal with this when there was a reasonable bill sent to them by the senate. If this fails, Councilor Murphy believes that this is going to go into the waste basket and go away. Councilor Murphy moved to postpone the vote until the next City Council meeting; there was no second.

Mayor Narkewicz noted that there is always a lot of information submitted with the budget that talks to the issue of charter schools. He agrees that the system is broken. Northampton is not an underperforming district and the Mayor has seen no innovation that has been passed on to public schools from the charter school system. The \$2.2 million dollar number quoted earlier is a very accurate number that Northampton loses to charter schools. Councilor Murphy was referring to school choice; outgoing tuition for a charter school student is \$14,000 while tuition for an incoming school choice student is \$5,500. In 2014 the voters of Northampton voted for a \$2.5 million override to address budget shortfalls. The way charter school tuition is calculated, is not just foundation funding

which is what public schools have to abide by, but is foundation plus a percentage of the override. So we go to the voters to raise taxes, and more of it is diverted to the tuition system. Mayor Narkewicz feels that if the state wants to run state schools, the state should give the charter schools chapter 70 authorization. Then there would be a real debate about Chapter 70 funding. Two years ago a blue ribbon panel was convened to look at the Chapter 70 formula and that committee estimated that Chapter 70 was underfunded by about \$2 billion due to undercounting the cost of special education and health insurance. Adding more charter schools is not a solution.

Councilor Murphy noted that the Mayor, School Committee, and Finance Directors do an admirable job for Northampton Public Schools. He does not want what he said to be held against the Mayor or School Administration. Councilor Murphy doesn't see the House of Representatives dealing with this reasonably.

Mayor Narkewicz indicated that the real issue is about revenue. If the governor wanted to increase money he could have added that to his budget. The Senate said that they would allow the cap but the cap cannot be lifted until or unless Chapter 70 is fully funded.

Councilor Bidwell doesn't want to vote in a way that will game the House of Representatives into doing the right thing. He would rather have the Council look at what the merits are with not letting the cap be lifted at this time. So much of this is about equity; there is equity in theory and then there is equity on the ground. A study that was done by the Superintendent of Schools and a public policy research group to find out who are the parents who pulled their children from the Northampton Schools and chose charter schools and why. There was a very high response rate. What the study showed was that every single family sending their child to a charter school was a family that included a person with a college degree or higher. The conclusion is that charter schools are not serving the way we had intended, that is to provide options for those families that are lacking in options. It is providing families with options that already have abundant options. Some have characterized it as providing private school education without having to pay private school tuition. That is hardly equity in the facts. The other point on equity is that there is a high degree of self selection in the process because if kids require bussing, then they won't be going to a charter school. You have to have the ability to arrange transportation on your own.

**Motion to approve
16.147 in 1st Reading**

Motion Carried

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the resolution in first reading; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Councilor Murphy), 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

**16.156 A Resolution
To accept a gift of
crosswalk
equipment from
Northampton
Montessori School -
1st Reading**

**Mayor revises
resolution to an
Order**

16.156 A Resolution To accept a gift of crosswalk equipment from Northampton Montessori School - 1st Reading

Mayor Narkewicz indicated that this resolution should have been framed as an order. It was to be reviewed as an order, however, the City Council did not take up this item as planned. It will be placed on the September 15, 2016 agenda for two readings. (Note: this item was reviewed and voted upon by the Committee on Finance only).

Presentations

**Betsy Alden - Spring
Grove Cemetery
project**

Presentations:

Betsy Alden - Spring Grove Cemetery project

Betsy Alden is a Ward 7 resident and gave a presentation about a volunteer project that she and others have been working on to acknowledge and pay homage to people who have been buried in the City cemetery at the "Potter's Field". Ms. Alden lives near Spring Grove Cemetery and happened to be walking through the cemetery one night. During the walk she learned from a cemetery worker that an area was designated as a "Potter's Field" (a location where indigent people are buried). Ms. Alden noted that the area is just a mowed section of land without markings or other identifying means. Ms. Alden approached the Cemetery Director, Bill Sullivan, and asked if something could be done.

Ms. Alden showed aerial pictures of the Cemetery and the location of Potter's Field. Ms. Alden raised over \$500 through private donations from Florence Bank and from residents of Easthampton, Belchertown, Greenfield, Westfield, Northampton, Florence; with these donations she purchased plants to create a shade and woodland garden. Ms. Alden noted that without the approval and support of Mr. Sullivan, this project would not have moved forward. Ms. Alden had a crew of Cemetery/DPW workers who helped to unload the truck of plants that were purchased from Wanczyk Nursery in Hadley; a crew of three friends helped Ms. Alden with planting the garden.

Ms. Alden noted that Potter's Field was created in the 1920's and there about 70 - 80 people buried there. A large stone has been placed in the general vicinity of the burial site. There are future plans to add a plaque to the stone to memorialize the burial site (she notes that only two graves were marked with a marker, one of which could not easily be read). She would also like to have a non-denominational service to memorialize the garden and the area. Ms. Alden plans to continue to take care of the garden in the future. She notes that at the time people are buried in Potter's Field there is no service at all. The DPW staff are the casket bearers and there is no one but the DPW workers in attendance.

**Betsy Alden - Spring
Grove Cemetery
project (continued)**

Councilor Dwight thanked Ms. Alden for her work. When asked, Ms. Alden explained that there is documentation about the people who are buried in Potter's Field. The information is kept in the Cemetery Director's Office. The last time someone was buried there was six years ago.

Councilor Klein thanked Ms. Alden for her inspiring work. The project she chose is from the heart and is an example of a Northampton resident doing something completely voluntary. Ms. Alden saw a need and acted upon it; she contacted the correct city staff to make it happen. This project honors citizens of Northampton and beautifies the cemetery. Councilor Klein is grateful that she took on such an endeavor.

Councilor O'Donnell thanked Ms. Alden for beautifying something in the present while giving life to something in the past. Projects like this are rare but valuable to the City.

Councilor Bidwell thanked Ms. Alden for her work and offered the observation that if she did want to continue her fundraising efforts, he has a feeling that it would be supported in the community.

Councilor LaBarge thanked Ms. Alden for her work. She knows the hard work that it takes to do the work that she had done.

Councilor Klein also noted that Ms. Alden contacted her about beautifying the Center of Florence. Her call is unusual in that most callers want City Councilors to do something for them; it is rare to hear from someone who wants to make a contribution to the community.

Councilor Dwight stated that her initiative and devotion are very much appreciated.

Consent Agenda**Consent Agenda****Motion to approve
Consent Agenda**

Councilor O'Donnell moved to accept the consent agenda; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 vacant.

Motion Carried

The following items were included on the consent agenda, and were approved as noted above:

- A. 16.136 Appointment of Jeff Jones, Northampton Housing Representative to the Community Preservation Committee
- B. 16.154 Referral of Appointments to Committees as follows:

Conservation Commission:

Lisa Fusco, 130 Cross Path Road, Northampton, term September 2016 - June 2019

Housing Partnership

Richard Abuza, 245 Chestnut St., Florence, term July 2016 - June 2019 (Reappointment)
Alison Brauner, 19 Market St., Apt. B, Northampton, term September 2016 - June 2019

Human Rights Commission:

Karen Bellavance-Grace, 19 Church St., Northampton, term September 2016 - June 2019
Davina Miller, 33 Summer St., Northampton, term September 2016 - June 2019

Public Shade Tree Commission:

Todd Ford, 78 Fern St., Florence, term July 2016 - June 2019 (Reappointment)
Marilyn Castriotta, 79 West St., Northampton, term July 2016 - June 2019 (Reappointment)

- C. Minutes of August 18, 2016

**Recess for
Committee on
Finance Meeting**

At 8:36 p.m. the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance meeting. The City Council reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Financial Orders**Financial Orders****Motion to revise
order of business**

Motion to revise City Council Order of Business made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor LaBarge. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Vacant, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra).

Motion Carried**16.139 An Order to
Authorize Purchase**

16.139 An Order to Authorize Purchase of Four Lots for Affordable Housing on Glendale Road - 2nd Reading

**of Four Lots for
Affordable Housing
on Glendale Road -
2nd Reading**

Planning & Sustainability Director Wayne Feiden indicated that the land specified in the order is not currently conservation land and is privately owned property. There is also a subdivision permit that is in effect and still valid. The permit would allow the property owner to divide the property up to 24 units. If the City does nothing, the land will likely be developed as 24 units. The City has done its own assessment to determine how the land could be developed; one idea would be to develop the land as originally planned (24 units); another idea is to divide up the land and place two cul-de-sacs on either end of the property with six and seven units on each end. This is what the market solution to the property would be. The City Council approved the purchase of the land a number of months ago. That authority allows the City to find a developer for the four lots, have the developer write the check directly to the seller and have the City purchase the remaining property. If that scenario were crafted, the City Council would not need to vote on this order. The reason the City Council is voting on this order is because there is benefits to the title of those four lots to come to the City. Habitat for Humanity is the likely developer for the land for affordable housing for first time home ownership. There is a grant that Habitat for Humanity would be eligible for that is scored out of 100 points. Of those 100 points, 10 points are granted if the land is donated. So if the Mayor gives \$20,000 to Habitat to buy the land and Habitat then writes a check to purchase the land, they would not be eligible for the 10 points. If the City buys the lots and donates the land to Habitat, then this would create better funding opportunity for the project. Before tonight there were a lot of questions about the property that could not be answered until the City was able to perform due diligence, including perc testing, surveying, etc. When the project goes to the Planning Board next Thursday, it is not to approve the four homes, but rather to amend the original special permit from 24 homes down to four.

Councilor Dwight asked Director Feiden to explain the difference between "low income housing" and "affordable housing". Director Feiden noted that "low income" focuses on people's income, while affordable housing refers to housing that is affordable for people. The market that Habitat is looking for are people who are working. They wouldn't be homeless or without a job. The target that the City had in the RFP specified people who were earning 80% of median income or below. What that number actually is depends on the number of people in the family. Councilor Dwight noted that when the project was first discussed, it was to address a neighborhood need about a large scale development project that was proposed by a private developer. This developer would have been allowed by right once they passed permitting. The neighborhood was very concerned about the scale of the project. What was worked out was the best possible prospect, including the creation of a buffer, and diminishing the impact to the neighbors.

Director Feiden noted that three years ago when the permitting was done, there were a dozen or so people who came before the Planning Board and raised concerns. The Planning Board had to approve the project because it met the criterion that has been established.

Councilor LaBarge stated that as a City Councilor in Ward 6, she believes that everyone worked together to fight the twenty-four home scenario. She did not approve of the project and was very vocal about her concerns. There were meetings just like the one that is planned for tomorrow night. She does not have to have the meetings, but she is doing it so that the owner can hear about what a project is all about. She felt the septic system was unacceptable. There were also people on Westhampton Road who were not going to support the project. When she received a call from a resident who is an abutter, she met with Director Feiden and the abutter; they walked the property together. As far as four houses, Councilor LaBarge feels it is acceptable. Tonight she hears from a resident who just moved into the neighborhood, that she had not been notified about the plans. Director Feiden explained that notices should have gone out for the public hearing and an orange sign went up as well. People are much more likely to notice a sign than a legal ad in the Gazette. Abutters are also notified by mail, but state law requires that the notice be sent to abutters as of January 1st.

**Motion to approve
16.139 in 2nd
Reading**

Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sierra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

The following order passed second reading:

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

**16.139
An Order
To Authorize Four Lots for Affordable Housing on
Glendale Road**

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, On May 19, 2016, City Council approved purchase of 55± acres located between Glendale and Westhampton Roads, the approved 24 lot Kensington Estates subdivision, for open space and a limited housing development;

WHEREAS, The City has proceeded with its due diligence and designed a limited development scenario that preserves the quality open space and provides much needed affordable housing, taking advantage of existing utilities, the best soils, and the lowest development and permitting costs;

16.139 Continued

WHEREAS, The limited development scenario includes:

1. 53.13± acres as an addition to the Mineral Hills Conservation Area
2. Four building lots on 2.2± acres (instead of the developer's planned 24 lots)
3. The four lots being dedicated for first-time home buyer affordable housing
4. Two driveways (instead of the developer's planned one-third mile road)
5. 0.09± acres surplus to other city needs to be donated to the abutter who is most effected by the project
6. Community Development Block Grant will fund the purchase of the building lots to create permanent affordability.

WHEREAS, The previous approval remains in effect, which authorizes the city to purchase the conservation land, and no further conservation approval is required.

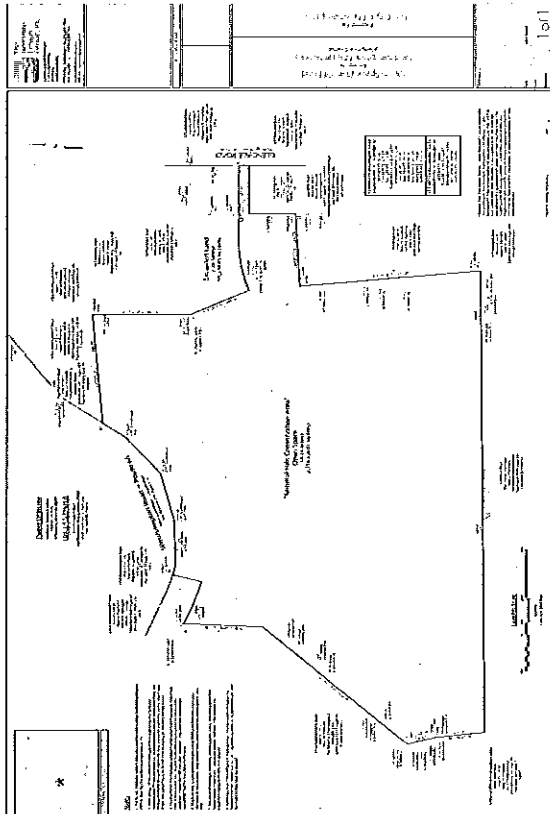
Ordered, that

The Mayor is authorized to accept a deed or deeds to the above referenced 2.29± acres;

Further, that City Council declares such land surplus to City needs;

Further, that the Mayor is authorized to transfer deeds to:

1. The abutter for the surplus land (Parcel A, 0.09± acres)
2. An affordable housing developer for the four building lots (Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2.2± acres)



16.139 Enrolled

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

16.149 An Order to
authorize payment
for a previous year
bill for the DPW - 1st
Reading

16.149 An Order to authorize payment for a previous year bill for the DPW - 1st Reading

16.149 Continued

Motion to approve
16.149 in 1st Reading

Councilor Murphy moved to approve the order in first reading; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

See minutes of September 15, 2016 for second reading.

16.150 An Order to
appropriate \$17,045
for stair repair at the
Academy of Music -
1st Reading

16.150 An Order to appropriate \$17,045 for stair repair at the Academy of Music - 1st Reading

Motion to approve
16.150 in 1st Reading

Councilor Murphy moved to approve the order in first reading; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

See minutes of September 15, 2016 for second reading.

16.151 An Order to
appropriate \$41,137
for replacement of
1986 six-wheel
sander for DPW - 1st
Reading

16.151 An Order to appropriate \$41,137 for replacement of 1986 six-wheel sander for DPW - 1st Reading

Motion to approve
16.151 in 1st Reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion: The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

See minutes of September 15, 2016 for second reading.

16.152 An Order to
rescind borrowing
authority for various
projects - 1st
Reading

16.152 An Order to rescind borrowing authority for various projects - 1st Reading

Motion to approve
16.152 in 1st Reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

See minutes of September 15, 2016 for second reading.

16.153 An Order to
Rescind Borrowing
Authority for various
projects - 1st
Reading

16.153 An Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority for various projects - 1st Reading

Motion to approve
16.153 in 1st Reading

Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the order in first reading; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

See minutes of September 15, 2016 for second reading.

16.155 An Order to
appropriate \$60,000
to demolish or make
safe a fire damaged
structure at 49
Round Hill Road -
Request 2 Readings

16.155 An Order to appropriate \$60,000 to demolish or make safe a fire damaged structure at 49 Round Hill Road - Request 2 Readings

Motion to approve
16.155 in 1st Reading

Councilor Klein moved to approve the order in first reading; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

Motion to suspend
City Council Rules
to allow for 2nd
Reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to suspend council rules to allow for a second reading; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

16.155 Continued

Motion Carried

Motion to approve
16.155 in 2nd
Reading

Councilor Murphy moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

The following order passed second reading:
Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

16.155
AN ORDER

To appropriate \$60,000 to demolish or make safe a fire damaged structure at 49 Round Hill Road

Ordered, that:

the sum of \$ 60,000 be and hereby is appropriated to the Emergency Demolition Account (19303-586124-14) from the Stabilization Fund to demolish or make safe a fire damaged structure located at 49 Round Hill Road in accordance with the Massachusetts State Building Code, 780 CMR chapter 1, section 116.4 and pursuant to the recovery provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 139, §3A and in accordance with Chapter 2 of the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 410.

16.155 Enrolled

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

16.140 An Order to
authorize the
purchase of 17.90
acres to add to the
Saw Mill Hills
Conservation area
east of Sylvester
Road - 2nd Reading

16.140 An Order to authorize the purchase of 17.90 acres to add to the Saw Mill Hills Conservation area east of Sylvester Road - 2nd Reading

Motion to approve
16.140 in 2nd
Reading

Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

The following order passed second reading:
Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning & Sustainability, and the Conservation Commission

16.140
An Order

To Authorize the Purchase of 17.9 Acres to add to Saw Mill Hill Conservation Area
East of Sylvester Road

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The *Open Space and Recreation Plan: 2011-2018* recommends preserving open space in the Saw Mill Hills to fill in wildlife and walking trail gaps in the preserved conservation area;

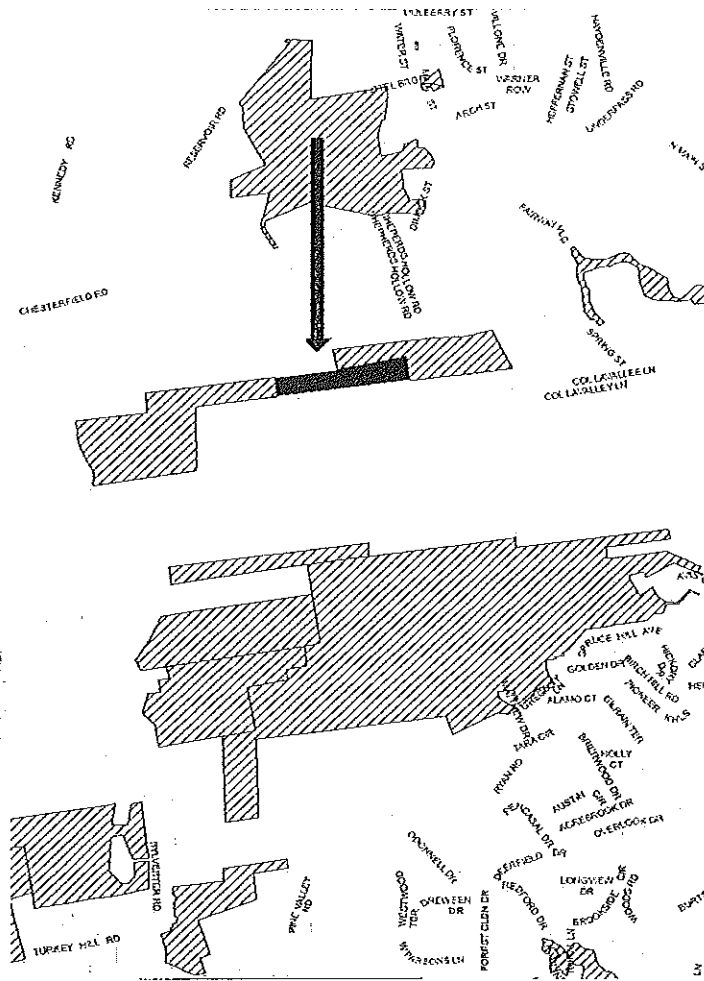
WHEREAS, The owners, for over two centuries, of 17.9± acres located on Roberts Hill in the Saw Mill Hills Conservation Area, south of Chesterfield Road and east of Sylvester Road have agreed to sell their property for \$26,850;

WHEREAS, While the land is landlocked and has no development value, it fills a critical gap within the Saw Mill Hills Conservation Area;

WHEREAS, The city has already raised all of the purchase price from community contributions and no new city appropriation or CPA funds are required;

Ordered, that

The Conservation Commission is authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire for conservation and passive recreation purposes, as provided by MGL Chapter 40, §8C, any fee, easement or conservation restriction as defined in MGL Chapter 184, §31 or any other interest in the above land and any immediately adjoining land; that the City Council hereby accepts such conservation restrictions; that the Conservation Commission is authorized to grant conservation restrictions on any land so acquired;



16,140 Enrolled

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

16.141 An Order to authorize the purchase of 20 acres to add to the Broad Brook Greenway west of North Farms Road - 2nd Reading

16.141 An Order to authorize the purchase of 20 acres to add to the Broad Brook Greenway west of North Farms Road - 2nd Reading

Motion to approve
16.141 in 2nd
Reading

Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

The following order passed second reading:
Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning & Sustainability, and the Conservation Commission

16.141
An Order

**To Authorize the Purchase of 20 Acres to add to the Broad Brook Greenway
West of North Farms Road**

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The *Open Space and Recreation Plan: 2011-2018* recommends preserving open space in the Broad Brook Greenway to fill in wildlife and walking trail gaps in the preserved conservation area;

WHEREAS, The owner of 20± acres located adjacent to the Beaver Brook/Broad Brook Greenway, west of North Farms Road, has agreed to sell their property for \$20,000;

WHEREAS, This purchase will provide the first walking link from North Farms Road to the Beaver Brook/Broad

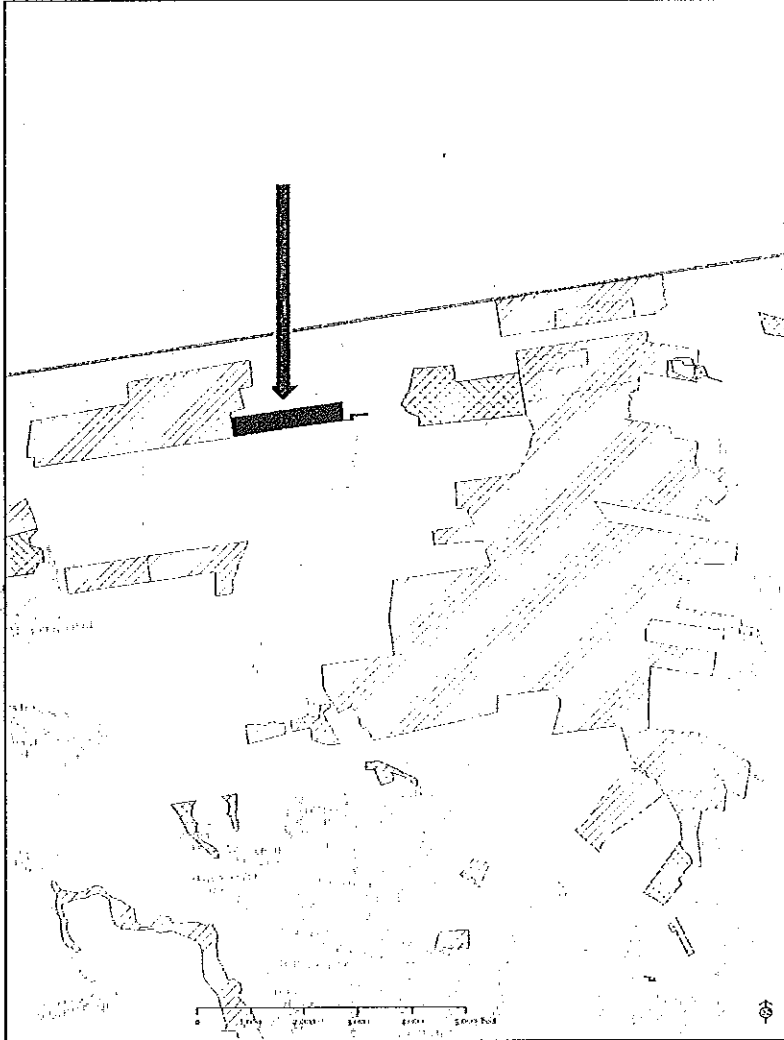
16.141 Continued

Brook Greenway, creating an exciting link;

WHEREAS, Funding will come from Community Preservation Act and from community contributions;

Ordered, that

The Conservation Commission is authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire for conservation and passive recreation purposes, as provided by MGL Chapter 40, §8C, any fee, easement or conservation restriction as defined in MGL Chapter 184, §31 or any other interest in the above land and any immediately adjoining land; that the City Council hereby accepts such conservation restrictions; that the Conservation Commission is authorized to grant conservation restrictions on any land so acquired.



16.141 Enrolled

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

16.143 An Order to
authorize the
purchase of 9 lots
for limited
development off
Burts Pit Road and
Overlook Drive - 2nd
Reading

16.143 An Order to authorize the purchase of 9 lots for limited development off Burts Pit Road and Overlook Drive - 2nd Reading

Motion to approve
16.143 in 2nd Reading
16.143 Continued

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried | The following order passed second reading:
Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

16.143

An Order

Authorizing the purchase of 9 Lots for limited development off
Burts Pit Road and Overlook Drive

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, On May 19, 2016, City Council approved purchase of 110± acres located between Burts Pit Road, Stone Ridge Road, Overlook Drive, and Florence Road, for open space and a limited housing development;

WHEREAS, The City has proceeded with its due diligence and designed a limited development scenario that preserves the quality open space and provides much needed housing, taking advantage of existing utilities, the best soils, the most environmentally sensitive design, and the lowest development and permitting costs;

WHEREAS, The City's goal in this limited development scenario is the creation of at least two lots dedicated for first-time buyer affordable housing;

WHEREAS, The limited development scenario includes:
1. 110± acres as an addition to Brookwood Marsh Conservation Area
2. Up to nine building lots on 2.67± acres (as shown on the attached preliminary plan) as follows:
 A. Overlook Drive Lot 1, only if there is not funding to keep as open space and
 B. Burts Pit Road Lots 3 through 10, with ~~one or two~~ a **number of** lots dedicated for first-time home buyer affordable housing if CDBG and other funding is available
3. Driveways (instead of the developer's planned roads)

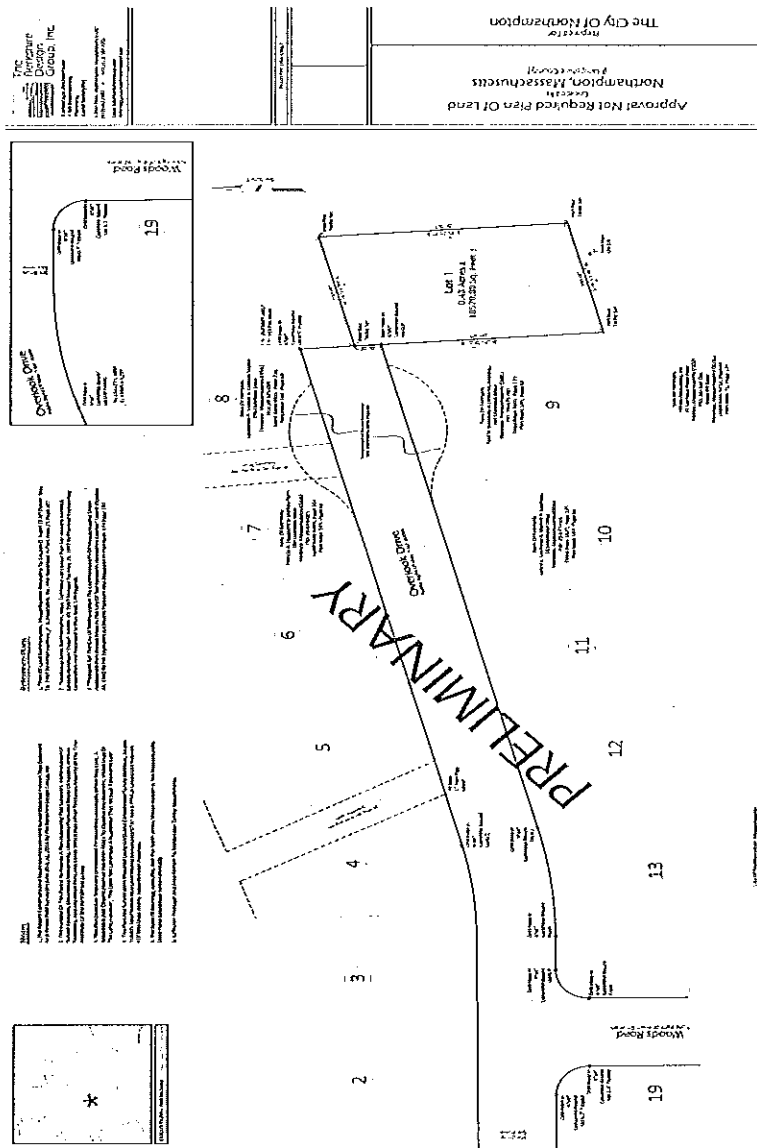
WHEREAS, The previous approval remains in effect, which authorizes the city to purchase the conservation land, and no further conservation approval is required.

Ordered, that

The Mayor is authorized to accept a deed or deeds to the above referenced 2.67± acres;

Further, that City Council declares such land surplus to City needs;

Further, that the Mayor is authorized to transfer deeds for the building lots.

16.143 Continued**16.143 Enrolled**

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

**16.144 Order to
authorize payment
for prior year bills -
2nd Reading**

16.144 Order to authorize payment for prior year bills - 2nd Reading

**Motion to approve
16.144 in 2nd
Reading**

Councilor Klein moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sclarra), 1 Vacant.

Motion Carried

The following order passed second reading:
Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**16.144
An Order**

To Authorize Payment of Prior Year Bills

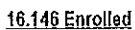
BE IT ORDERED

that the Council authorize payment of prior fiscal year bills (FY2016) related to the DPW:

Comcast - \$154.83
Comcast - \$260.66
OESCO - \$698.11
Jankowski and Spencer, PC - \$1,117.50

Water Enterprise Fund
Water Enterprise Fund
General Highways
Legal Services

<u>16.144 Continued</u>	Jankowski and Spencer, PC - \$777.00 Legal Services Jankowski and Spencer, PC - \$1,237.50 Legal Services Jankowski and Spencer, PS - \$1,229 Legal Services
<u>16.144 Enrolled</u>	<u>Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.</u>
<u>16.145 An Order to accept a gift of a van from PVTA for the IT Department - 2nd Reading</u>	<u>16.145 An Order to accept a gift of a van from PVTA for the IT Department - 2nd Reading</u>
<u>Motion to approve 16.145 in 2nd reading</u>	Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sclarra), 1 Vacant.
<u>Motion Carried</u>	<u>The following order passed second reading:</u> <u>Upon recommendation of the Mayor</u> <div style="text-align: center;"><u>16.145</u> <u>An Order</u> <u>To Authorize acceptance a gift of a</u> <u>2010 Ford Transit Connect van for the IT Department</u></div> <u>Ordered, that</u> The City of Northampton gratefully accepts the donation of a 2010 Ford Transit Connect van from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A, to be used by the Information Technology (IT) Department.
<u>16.145 Enrolled</u>	<u>Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.</u>
<u>Orders</u>	<u>Orders</u>
<u>16.146 Accept a deed or a taking for Pleasant Street from Holyoke Street to Hockanum Road - 2nd Reading</u>	<u>16.146 Accept a deed or a taking for Pleasant Street from Holyoke Street to Hockanum Road - 2nd Reading</u>
<u>Motion to approve 16.146 in 2nd Reading</u>	Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the order in second reading; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sclarra), 1 Vacant.
<u>Motion Carried</u>	<u>The following order passed second reading:</u> <u>Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz</u> <div style="text-align: center;"><u>16.146</u> <u>An Order</u> <u>To Accept A Deed for a portion of Pleasant Street</u></div> WHEREAS, On July 14, 2016, City Council approved a petition accepting Pleasant Street from Holyoke Street to Hockanum Road (currently a MassDOT layout); WHEREAS, MassDOT has provided the City with the final survey for this work and City Council final approval to accept a deed or taking for this property is required. <u>Ordered, that</u> The Mayor is authorized to accept a deed or deeds to the above referenced Pleasant Street layout, substantially as shown on the attached survey. <u>Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.</u>



Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

Ordinances

None

Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs

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their every word and document is scoured for potential exclusion from the process, then Councilor Dwight feels that this would be bad. This level of scrutiny would diminish the desire to work in a volunteer capacity; who among "us" does not speak inappropriately from time to time. Councilor Dwight apologized for the inappropriate comment he made in a recent newspaper article about the issue; he feels his words were poorly chosen.

**Information
Requests (Charter
Provision 2-7)
and Information
Study Requests**

Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests

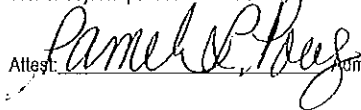
None

New Business

New Business: None

At 9:30 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Murphy and seconded by Councilor Klein. The vote to adjourn passed on a voice vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sclarra), 1 Vacant.

Attest:



Administrative Assistant to the City Council

2015-2016 City Council Roll Call Record

Record of City Council Votes for September 1, 2016		Vacant	Bidwell	Carney	Dwight	Klein	LaBarge	Murphy	O'Donnell	Sciarra	Total
Roll Call by Pamela L. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council @ 7:26 p.m.			Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	7 Present, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
16.147 A Resolution Opposing Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools	1st Reading		Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Abstain	Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant, 1 Abstention
16.149 An Order to authorize payment for a previous year bill for the DPW	1st Reading		Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
16.150 An Order to appropriate \$17,045 for stair repair at the Academy of Music	1st Reading		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Second Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
16.151 An Order to appropriate \$41,137 for replacement of 1986 six-wheel sander for DPW	1st Reading		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
16.152 An Order to rescind borrowing authority for various projects	1st Reading		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
16.153 An Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority for various projects	1st Reading		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant

2015-2016 City Council Roll Call Record

Record of City Council Votes for September 1, 2016											
		Vacant	Bidwell	Carney	Dwight	Klein	LaBarge	Murphy	O'Donnell	Sciarra	Total
	16.155 An Order to appropriate \$60,000 to demolish or make safe a fire damaged structure at 49 Round Hill Road	1st Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
		Suspend Rules for 2nd Reading							Councilor LaBarge moved to suspend City Council rules to allow for second reading; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Councilor Sciarra was absent.		
		2nd Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Second Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	16.139 An Order to Authorize Purchase of Four Lots for Affordable Housing on Glendale Road	2nd Reading	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	16.140 An Order to authorize the purchase of 17.90 acres to add to the Saw Mill Hills Conservation area east of Sylvester Road	2nd Reading	Motion to Approve Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	16.141 An Order to authorize the purchase of 20 acres to add to the Broad Brook Greenway west of North Farms Road	2nd Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	16.143 An Order to authorize the purchase of 9 lots for limited development off Burts Pit Road and Overlook Drive	2nd Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	16.144 Order to authorize payment for prior year bills	2nd Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	16.145 An Order to accept a gift of a van from PVTA for the IT Department	2nd Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant
	Accept a deed or a taking for Pleasant Street from Holyoke Street to Hockanum Road	2nd Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to Approve Yes	Absent	Motion Carried 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant

At 9:30 pm Councilor Murphy motioned to adjourn; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant.

Recorded By:

Pamela L. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council

(413) 587-1210; ppowers@northamptonma.gov